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## PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997\*

MAJOR PROGRAMME III. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTProgramme 45. African economic recovery, development  
and transformation

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\* The present document contains programme 45 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and replaces subprogramme 5 of programme 11 (see A/45/6 (Prog. 11)/Corr.1). The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in the final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 45. AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY, DEVELOPMENT  
AND TRANSFORMATION

A. Programme

1. General orientation

45.1 The legislative authority for the programme derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 33/202 of 29 January 1979, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, 43/27 of 18 November 1988, 44/24 of 17 November 1989 and decision 44/411 of 17 November 1989.

45.2 The international community has fully recognized the pervasive economic problems that afflict the African region. Although African Governments have initiated actions aimed at achieving the long-term structural transformation of their economies and at breaking the vicious circle of poverty and underdevelopment, a host of factors, many of them exogenous, have continued to thwart their efforts. Among these are the decline in commodity prices, adverse terms of trade, the decline in financial flows, increased protectionism, and the heavy burden of debt and debt-servicing. One of the most negative and damaging consequences of this situation has been a reverse flow of capital resources from the poorest continent instead of the provision of expected additional resources to Africa by the international community. Moreover, it has been noted that the technical co-operation provided to many African countries has not been as effective as intended, particularly in capacity-building.

45.3 The African development crisis is one that concerns the international community as a whole. Greater realization of the rich physical and human potential of the continent is an integral part of a common strategy to promote the economic and social advancement of all people.

45.4 The adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex) reflected a mutual commitment by Africa to provide the necessary framework to launch long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic development and growth and by the international community to assist Africa in achieving this objective. The Secretary-General was called upon to co-ordinate the assistance and support of the United Nations system and to monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action. The mid-term review of the Programme of Action concluded with a reaffirmation that dealing with the African crisis remained a priority for the United Nations and the international community.

45.5 Although the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action will not be undertaken by the General Assembly until its forty-sixth session, it is clear, given the gravity of the situation, that the challenge of African economic recovery and development will remain a priority concern of the international community during the period of the present medium-term plan. Responding to this challenge will continue to require concerted effort by the international community, including the United Nations system.

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45.6 This programme complements the specific activities to be carried out by the United Nations identified in the Programme of Action and subsequent related intergovernmental decisions in a number of programmes of the medium-term plan, in particular programme 30, "Regional co-operation for development in Africa". Other relevant programmes include programme 11, "Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination", and programme 15, "Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes".

45.7 The activities to be carried out under the programme are aimed at:

(a) Ensuring that the critical problems confronting Africa will be addressed effectively and urgently in a co-ordinated manner by the international community, including the United Nations system;

(b) Encouraging the international community to translate its commitment to assisting Africa in achieving economic development and transformation into effective policy measures;

(c) Mobilization of increased resource flows to Africa;

(d) Increasing awareness at the global level of the critical economic situation in Africa and the actions needed to improve that situation.

## 2. Overall strategy

45.8 In order to achieve those objectives, the overall strategy of the Secretary-General will comprise co-ordination at both the global and regional levels.

45.9 In accordance with his mandate, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation will provide overall co-ordination and leadership of United Nations system activities in support of African economic recovery, development and transformation. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in accordance with its role as the main economic and social development centre for the region, will exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level in the implementation of this programme. ECA will further provide analytical input to intergovernmental bodies, particularly with regard to the substantive multisectoral economic and social issues, and provide recommendations with regard to possible courses of action as well as undertake operational and substantive activities in support of the programme. The Department of Public Information will continue its special programme for highlighting African economic concerns.

45.10 At its thirtieth session, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had requested that the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, prepare a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, taking into account the development of the situation. That plan of action would also reflect the results of the final review of the Programme of Action. The Director-General for Development and International

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Economic Co-operation, in close collaboration with the Executive Secretary of ECA, would be responsible for preparing the system-wide plan of action. In doing so, they would seek to identify current mandates and activities, including those which have not been implemented, to indicate resources (regular budget and extrabudgetary) available as well as the desired level of resources and to highlight additional actions in support of the economic recovery and development of Africa.

45.11 The system-wide plan of action, once adopted, would form the basis for system-wide co-ordination during the period covered by the medium-term plan.

45.12 The overall strategy of the programme will also include:

(a) Promoting a co-ordinated and effective response by the United Nations system in support of African economic recovery, development and transformation, through, inter alia, inter-agency arrangements; to that end, efforts will be made to enhance the functioning of those arrangements;

(b) Monitoring and assessing the evolution of African economic and social development with a view to identifying and promoting policies and activities that would contribute to the long-term restructuring and transformation of African economies towards accelerated self-sustained growth and development;

(c) Undertaking research on the global factors influencing the economic recovery and development of Africa, in particular those having a direct bearing on the financial flows to and from Africa;

(d) Promoting greater support by Governments for African economic recovery and development through, inter alia, intergovernmental deliberations;

(e) Promoting actions to increase financial resources for African economic recovery and development;

(f) Developing public information programmes and providing support to non-governmental organizations.

### 3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

45.13 The programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Co-ordination and mobilization of resources

Subprogramme 2. Monitoring and assessment of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects

Subprogramme 3. Promotion of global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa

45.14 In view of the priority given to African economic recovery and development by the international community, no priority designation is proposed among the three subprogrammes.

## B. Subprogrammes

### SUBPROGRAMME 1. CO-ORDINATION AND MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

#### (a) Objectives

45.15 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 43/27 and 44/24 and decision 44/411.

45.16 In its resolution S-13/2, the General Assembly emphasized, inter alia, the need to intensify economic and technical co-operation with African countries and requested the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to participate fully in and support the implementation of the Programme of Action. In the annex to that resolution, the Assembly called upon the Secretary-General, inter alia, to co-ordinate the assistance and support of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. The Assembly also stated that, for cohesive and balanced implementation of the Programme of Action, systematic follow-up action was necessary at the subregional and regional levels.

45.17 In response to that call, the Secretary-General established, under the chairmanship of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, a United Nations Steering Committee with the participation of all the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to co-ordinate and monitor their response to the Programme of Action. In addition, an Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa has been established under the chairmanship of the Executive Secretary of ECA as the substantive and operational arm of the Steering Committee.

45.18 In the annex to its resolution 43/27 on the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the General Assembly recognized that the Secretary-General had taken important actions to sensitize the international community to the serious economic situation in Africa, to ensure a co-ordinated response by the United Nations system to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to monitor and report on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The General Assembly also considered that co-operation and co-ordination among the various organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation and monitoring of the Programme of Action should be further strengthened. The Assembly further considered that at the national level further efforts to improve co-ordination within the United Nations system should be taken in the context of the country programming framework of the United Nations and the role of the resident co-ordinator.

45.19 At its thirtieth session, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had recommended the preparation of a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, taking into account the development of the situation.

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That plan of action, to be submitted in 1992, would be prepared in full consultation with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

45.20 The following activities will be carried out:

- (a) To continue and, as appropriate, enhance efforts to:
  - (i) Highlight the critical situation in Africa as a major feature of the ongoing international agenda;
  - (ii) Encourage the international community to translate its commitment into policy measures, including increased financial flows to assist Africa;
  - (iii) Initiate action that would further mobilize the support of the United Nations system for Africa's economic development and transformation;
  - (iv) Promote a co-ordinated and effective response by the United Nations system, at the policy and operational levels;
- (b) To co-ordinate the preparation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development; the preparation of the system-wide plan will include, inter alia, the following activities:
  - (i) Identification of current mandates and activities, including those which have not been implemented;
  - (ii) Indication of the resources (regular budget and extrabudgetary) available as well as the desired level of resources;
  - (iii) Proposals regarding additional measures to be taken for providing the necessary support and assistance to Africa;
- (c) To ensure that, once the system-wide plan of action is adopted:
  - (i) Each organization identifies in its biennial work programme those resources allocated for the implementation of the system-wide plan of action;
  - (ii) The organizations concerned assist in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources for the action plan;
  - (iii) Resources involved in technical assistance are used effectively;
- (d) To ensure the necessary support for intergovernmental deliberations on African economic recovery and development issues, including the preparation of documentation;
- (e) To promote specific action, inter alia:

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- (i) To ease conditionalities associated with resource flows to Africa and to support economic reforms in the region;
- (ii) To mobilize international efforts towards improved commodity price stabilization and compensation programmes;
- (iii) To mobilize resources for the diversification of the African economy as a means of reducing excessive dependence on a few vulnerable commodities;
- (f) To strengthen co-operation between the focal points at Headquarters and at Addis Ababa for activities related to African economic recovery, development and transformation.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING THEIR FINANCIAL ASPECTS

(a) Objectives

45.21 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 43/27 and 44/24 and decision 44/411.

45.22 In determining the factors necessary for the success of the Programme of Action, the international community recognized that there should be:

(a) Greater support for the policy reforms and necessary measures to be undertaken by African Governments to promote the economic recovery and development of Africa;

(b) Improvement in the external environment;

(c) Improvement in the quality and modality of external assistance and co-operation;

(d) Assistance in solving general problems of economic recovery and debt constraints;

(e) Consideration of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation (A/44/315, annex), as a basis for constructive dialogue and fruitful consultation.

45.23 The international community's interest included emphasis on non-project aid, concessional assistance, increased support to the Special Programme for African Countries of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and increased resource flows; policies designed to produce sustained equitable and non-inflationary growth, and the establishment of commodity agreements and arrangements; increased emphasis on programme support in priority areas, evolution of procurement policies, speedier disbursement of funds, and better planning of programmes of assistance. These are among the issues that will continue to play a major part in Africa's recovery through the 1990s and there will be a need to undertake regular monitoring and periodic assessment of actions taken by the international community in addressing them.

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(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

45.24 During the period of the plan, the following activities will be carried out:

(a) Research and analysis of the global factors influencing the recovery, development and transformation of Africa;

(b) Study of the problems encountered in the implementation of specific activities that have been designed to address the economic and social emergency situation in Africa as well as of activities of a long-term nature that address the development issues in Africa;

(c) Analysis of the financial flows, multilateral and bilateral, available or required for African economic recovery and development. Particular attention will be paid to the results of the consultations on the proposals contained in the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation.

45.25 Special efforts will be made to ensure that the assessments and recommendations emanating from the research are action-oriented. The Secretariat will further ensure that the publications produced as a result of the research are widely disseminated in accessible and easily comprehensible formats.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. PROMOTION OF GLOBAL AWARENESS OF THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA

(a) Objectives

45.26 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 43/27, 44/24 and 44/213.

45.27 The various initiatives put forward over the past years have included the Lagos Plan of Action and its Final Act (see A/S-11/14), the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (see A/40/666, annex I), the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment, Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Development. All these initiatives have served to apprise the international community of the critical economic situation in Africa and the steps required to achieve self-reliance and transformation. While new global initiatives and rapid political transformations in various parts of the world are welcome, it is important that international support and assistance to the African economic recovery and development should remain a major objective of international co-operation. Retaining Africa's ongoing critical economic situation on the international agenda will require sustained awareness of the region's social and economic progress in the 1990s, the dissemination of information related to all those aspects and the mobilization of the necessary financial resources.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

45.28 The main elements of the work to be undertaken under this subprogramme will be as follows:

(a) Wide dissemination of action programmes and related decisions and policy guidelines adopted by intergovernmental bodies;

(b) Publication of the periodical Africa Recovery, briefing papers on key issues and press kits;

(c) Organization of meetings or conferences to inform policy and decision makers about action programmes and enlist their support;

(d) Organization of and participation in conferences, symposia and other relevant meetings to provide interested target groups, such as parliamentarians, donor government foreign service officials, non-governmental organizations, journalists, trade-unions and universities, with information about the gravity of Africa's economic situation, and the actions that are being undertaken or that need to be undertaken. In so doing, every effort will be made to enlist the support of these target groups for African recovery and development;

(e) Enhancing the liaison functions at Headquarters and Addis Ababa with donor and African Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, regional groups, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the media etc.;

(f) Enlisting the active support of the non-governmental organizations for the implementation of programmes of action.

45.29 In carrying out those activities, particular emphasis will be given to highlighting the efforts made by the African Governments to launch long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic development and growth and the constraints, in particular of a financial nature, that impede these efforts.

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